

DX LISTENING DIGEST 00-44, March 23, 2000
edited by Glenn Hauser

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THIS WEEK ON WORLD OF RADIO 1029: See topic summary at
<http://www.angelfire.com/ok/worldofradio>

WORLD OF RADIO ON WORLD RADIO NETWORK. New seasonal schedules go into effect March 26, including for North America, where our time change does not take place until one week later. Strictly in UT, WOR will be on WRN1:

Europe: Sat 0330, Sat 0800

E Europe, Africa, Mideast, Asia, Pacific: Sat 0800, Sun 1030

WorldSpace on AfriStar channel 627: Sat 0330, Sat 0800, Sun 0530

North America: Sat 1600, Sun 0530, and NEW Sun 1030

WRN is also streamed, and past three months of WOR are archived at
<http://www.wrn.org/ondemand> with the new edition usually available by about 1100 UT Fridays.

WOR listeners via WRN are encouraged to let WRN know they appreciate this public service: feedback@wrn.org

** AFGHANISTAN. Kabul radio announces change in schedule Text of report by Afghan Taleban radio on 21st March

Announcement by the Radio Voice of Shari'ah: From Sat Mar 25 schedule changes to 0100-0330, 1300-1800 UT. Commercial advertisement, death and lost and found announcements will be broadcast at 1435. Our compatriots should take note (Source: Radio Voice of Shari'ah, Kabul, in Pashto 1500 gmt 21 Mar 00, via BBC Monitoring, excerpted for WORLD OF RADIO 1029, DXLD)

** ALBANIA. Radio Tirana 26 March - 29 Tetor 2000/ad in English:

England	1830-1845	Cerrik	A/100	9510	31	305
		Shijak	/100	7180	41	310

	2130-2200	Shijak	/100	7130	41	310
		Cerrik	A/100	9540	31	305
Fllaka		/500	1215	247	OND	

U.S.A.	0145-0200	Cerrik	A/100	6115	49	305
		Cerrik	A/100	7160	41	305

	0230-0300	Cerrik	A/100	6115	49	305

Cerrik A/100	7160	41	305
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And Albanian to North America:

2300-0200	Shijak /100	6090	49	300
	Cerrik A/100	7270	41	305

0200-0330	Shijak /100	6090	49	300
	Cerrik A/100	7270	41	305

* All are daily transmissions. (Drita Cico, Mrs., ARTV Head of Monitoring March 23 via Volker Willschrey, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** BELGIUM. We asked RVI if the schedule is correct showing English to NAM on Bonaire 15565 at 2230 will be on Saturdays only at 2130 instead ? (gh) Hallo, English to North America on Saturdays is also at 22.30 UTC (Rita Penne, Radio Vlaanderen Internationaal, Mar 23, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CONGO DR. 15725, R Liberte herd on 18-3 with very low signal at 2000 with prg in Lingala and full commentaries, short music pieces, Signal S4 with local noise and 16 dB preamp. At 2153 significantly better signal. Same for 19-3 (Zacharias Liangas, Greece, March 19, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CONGO DR. DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK). Good reception past couple of evenings from the new Congolese rebel station Radio Liberte on 15725usb, broadcasting from Gbadolite in the extreme north west of Dem. Rep Congo. Station is on air from 1800-2300 approx and was audible throughout yesterday (20 March). Several clear IDs in French heard around 1830 followed by talk in presumed Lingala. The last half of the broadcast seems to be mostly continuous music - both African and US/European. (Dave Kenny, UK, Mar 21, BDXC-UK, WORLD OF RADIO 1029)

** FRANCE. If I correctly understood a brief reference on "Couleur Tropicale," an African music show which celebrated its 5th anniversary last week, RFI will be changing its program schedule this coming weekend. "Couleur Tropicale" (two consecutive programs, 20 minutes each, interrupted by 10-minute newscast) will shift back to 2110 UTC instead of the current 2140 start time (Mike Cooper, GA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GUATEMALA. Couldn't resist an attempt to try for this signal [R. Verdad]. 4052.487 at 1156Z 3/21/2000 signal strength measured at -106 dBm; female heard singing slow tune; best in USB; ID given at 1159Z; at 1223Z signal barely audible (Thomas B. Roach, Grass Valley, CA, HF-1000 with Alpha Delta DX-SWL Sloper, hard-core-dx, WORLD OF RADIO

1029, DXLD)

** GUATEMALA. Our further checks of the new R. Verdad, 4052.5, Chiquimula:

Tuesday, March 21: only checked briefly at 1205 when the habitual ``An-o 2000 Jubileo`` promo was running, ID in passing; relieved that Monday's 4053.0 carrier was gone and not heard subsequently either. Losing out to T-storm and local noise level by 1215.

Wednesday, March 22: Carrier came on late at *1144, joining music at 1145, with no anthem. This day, T-storm noise increasing, and signal also weaker and choppy. Love song, chimes (maybe vibes but does not sound like marimba), 1150 ID with details, 1159 outro Tren show with banjo theme; 1201 chimes, ID, mostly talk until fadeout.

Thursday, March 23: 1128 tune in, NA in progress, 1130 repeat of the anthem history talk heard before. ID at 1133 has some location words I have not been able to make out completely, just before he says Chiquimula, but sounds something like `Desde Monte Oron de la Gloria...` and another time like `Ministerio de la Gloria` See if you can tell on the tape I include on this weekend's Radio-Enlace on R. Nederland. A callsign starting with TG- was again mumbled in the 1149 announcement. 1201 outro to Tren del Evangelio show ``con himnos espirituales`` credits somebody (for the records?) in el mercado central de Chiquimula. Cuckoo, Big Ben, time check and talk, probably bible reading mentioning ``capitulo``, ``Jeova``; gone into noise level by 1208 ((C) Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** LIBERIA. Government lifts ban on Radio Veritas. The Liberian Information Ministry has announced the lifting with "immediate effect" of the suspension of the Roman Catholic radio station Veritas for posing a security threat, the French press agency Agence France Press reported on 22nd March. The previous week Liberian President Charles Taylor ordered the suspension of broadcasts by Radio Veritas and the immediate closure of a second independent station, Star Radio, for allegedly inflammatory reporting. AFP reported the Information Ministry's statement saying that the suspension was lifted following talks between the ministers of justice, information and postal affairs and the board of Radio Veritas headed by its chairman Archbishop Michael Francis.... Taylor had said on 17th March that the ban imposed on Veritas radio could only be lifted if the station agreed to limit itself to only religious broadcasts.

Commenting on the closure of Star Radio, Taylor said he had been contacted by the embassy of the United States, one of several countries which funds the radio. "The matter will be resolved through diplomatic channels," AFP quoted Taylor as saying (Source: AFP news

agency, Paris, in English 1908 gmt 22 Mar 00 via BBC Monitoring, DXLD)

** NEW ZEALAND. Glenn, Heard RNZI this morning March 21 at 0745 tune-in, excellent reception on 15115. Time pips at 0800, then silence until 0806, continuing with regular programming. However, news was heard at 0900. (Ivan Grishin, Ont., DX LISTENING DIGEST, WOR 1029)

** PHILIPPINES. Come via e mail is the full FEBC A00 schedule. Here is English section. Note how the 0930 service has been dropped.

1300-1500 11995, 0000-0130 15175

Both via Bocaue TX Philippines (Karl Kruger, SE England, Electronic DX Press March 22 via DXLD) Leading up to the previously reported plan to drop all English by June or July (gh)

** RUSSIA. 29160 and 29525 Russian harmonics. I have been studying ex-Soviet bcng since the late 60's, and my experience is that early 50/100 kW SW txs are notorious for their powerful hxs. Thus, the problem is in the basic design of these txs. Unfortunately, quite a number of these txs exist at various sites and are still in use. 9720 for many years was used from the Chkalovskaya site east of Moscow (the txions were checked right outside the gates of the site by a wellknown DXer in the early 90's). Some time during the second half of 1999 this old and small site, as it appears, was closed altogether. The txion on 9720 was moved to another site, and my studies show that with a high degree of certainty this new site is Kurovskaya, the easternmost of the Moscow SW sites. This site is a large and old one with quite a number of txs from the critical range. Evenings the 9720 tx uses 5905 (!), mornings the freq is 6110, all good for the winter period.

Novosibirsk site also has a number of the problem txs, which are also leased by the VoA, Deutsche Welle, etc. The hx problem being a basic design problem, the only thing the Russians can do is to throw in other txs of a more modern design where available. A second problem arising at some Russian sites comes from crosstalk in the antenna systems. Two txs using adjacent antenna structures in the same band may produce very strong signals determined by the difference freq of the two signals. (To GB2RS from Olle Alm, Sweden, Mar 16, BC-DX via DXLD)

** UKRAINE. Tentative frequency plan of Radio Ukraine International transmissions valid from 26 March to 29 October 2000. [We have extracted the frequencies indicated as applying to English broadcasts, fewer than before. The only frequency designated for NAM is 13590 at 2300-0400, 1000 kW, all in Ukrainian. Why they would rather broadcast in English to North Kazakhstan than North America is unclear. The channel 1 frequencies are 100 kW -gh]

2100 channel 1: 5905 269 CEu, 6020 ND, 9640 N Kazakhstan, 11950 NWEu
0000 channel 1: 5905 CEu, 6020 ND, 9640 N Kazakhstan
0300 channel 1: 6020 ND, 9640 N Kazakhstan, 12045 Russia
1100 channel 3: 21520 Au 1000 kW

(via Alexandr Egorov, Kiev, Ukraine via RUS-DX Mar 20, via Wolfgang Bueschel via DXLD)

** U K O G B A N I. New English schedules for BBC World Service
Text of BBC press release on 3rd March

BBC World Service launches its new English schedules on 2nd April with some new series joining established favourites - and all broadcast at better times of day across the world.

"We have been working towards these new schedules for the past two years," said Mark Byford, Chief Executive BBC World Service. "As we broadcast to 24 different time zones, it is no mean feat to give listeners the programmes they want to listen to at the right time of day - but our scheduling experts have cracked it. No matter where you are in the world, you will now be able to hear news and analysis in the early morning, midday and early evening and tune in to favourite World Service programmes at regular and appropriate times."

At the heart of the new schedule are news updates at key times of day. There will be bulletins on the hour, every hour. Longer news programmes include new 'World Briefing' slots encompassing business news, sports news and British news, together with established programmes such as the successful The World Today and Newshour.

In between these programmes will be regular scheduled sequences of general programmes. The three slots: 'World Living', 'World Showcase' and 'World Insight' all feature in the morning, afternoon and evening which will mean listeners can tune in to similar programmes at the same time every week. The 'World Living' slot will include human interest programmes (including World Service's long running magazine programme Outlook), a 'World Showcase' slot of arts and drama programmes includes the established arts strand Meridian and the World Service soap Westway, and the 'World Insight' slot of factual programmes includes Discovery and Focus on Faith.

The flexibility of the schedules has been achieved with some changes behind the scenes. From April, World Service will be producing a continuous news and information stream and groups of general programmes which will then be mixed and matched to produce a tailored mixed schedule for their area that listeners can hear on short wave or via a local rebroadcaster on FM and mediumwave around the world.

This new way of working means World Service can broadcast eight English schedules for different time zones around the world instead of the current three. Listeners on the Internet will be able to choose to hear the usual mixed schedule or the continuous news and information schedule. Both will be available through a simple mouse click.

The English network has recently recorded its highest ever audience at 40 million listeners across the world.

New series starting in April include:

The Big C - a four part series that looks at what can be done to beat cancer looking at preventions and cures from around the world.

So Much Land, So Much Hope - part of a Brazilian season to mark the 500th anniversary of European settlement in Brazil. It reports on how hundreds of thousands of peasant families and rural workers in Brazil are engaged in a long struggle to win the right to a plot of land.

The Reith Lectures - for the first time the Reith Lectures will be delivered by more than one lecturer on the theme of Respect for the Earth. Lecturers are the Rt Hon Chris Patten, Dr Thomas E. Lovejoy, Sir John Browne, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland and Dr Vandana Shiva.

Electric Journeys - where do the world's writers, cosmonauts, inventors, politicians and even royalty go when they surf the net? World Service asks eight very different people to take a personal online journey revealing their interests as they search for their favourite web sites.

Football in the East - with the World Cup in South Korea and Japan just two years away, World Service looks at the rise of football in Asia and asks whether teams from the continent can emulate the progress African sides have made in recent years.

Speaking Lives - a new multimedia oral testimony series, produced by the successful My Century Team. In each programme three people from different countries reveal their shared ambition or experience.

All Back to Mine - some of today's biggest pop stars invite World Service listeners to eavesdrop as they rifle through their record collections at home, revealing a few secrets on the way. Sean Rowley pops round to Noel Gallagher's, Fat Boy Slim's, Damon Albarn's and The Chemical Brothers' pads.

Source: BBC press release, London, in English 3 Mar 00 (via BBC Monitoring via DXLD)

** U K O G B A N I. And now the main gripe: I assume that you've seen the April BBC On Air magazine by now. What a mess! What WERE they thinking? I can understand them splitting the streams and arranging programming to suit the various target areas. But to take the listings and reduce the GMT time entries to minor side notes, while filling the program entries with what they think is "local time", is insane!

The concept of listing a multi-time-zone target area, like the Americas, with one "local time", and that being Eastern Time, is a great mistake. If the BBC has target areas with only one local time zone, that is different. "Local Time" then can be correct. But the listings in the April On Air for the Americas reflect the correct local time for only one part of the continent-wide audience!

As an SWL, I know GMT. I know that serious SW addicts like you LIVE by GMT. I'm not quite that much taken over by it, but I know what time it is in GMT automatically (at least most of the year, except for the "week of confusion" twice a year... :-). But for the BBC On Air program listings for the Americas to have everything in Eastern Time is wretched. First off, us midWesterners hate the effete Easterners, and are annoyed enough by the constant TV-network references to Eastern time as it is. We don't need to see it on our SW schedules!

Secondly, we are used to converting GMT/UT to local, as I said, and throwing a different zone conversion at us makes things next to impossible to read and understand without wasting far too much time doing mental arithmetic. And, as someone in the US Central time zone, adjusting the printed times by one hour is annoying enough. How much more annoying and mistake-prone will this be for those people in the North American Mountain and Pacific time zones?

I subscribed to BBC On Air to get a GMT-based listing of all the BBC SW programming, for all streams and target areas. I often listen to programs aimed at other targets than the Americas; the BBC forces this because they omit certain programs from this region's stream or only air them at times when there is no relay transmission aimed at us. Now, in order to look at the other region's streams and determine what is on the air, I have to dig the GMT timings out from the morass of local times, so it greatly reduces the appeal of the worldwide printed schedule. I had been thinking about sending in a renewal of my BBC On Air subscription, but now I wonder if I should bother to do so. If this timing mess isn't corrected, and GMT isn't restored to its rightful primary role, with the local times indicated in a less-prominent fashion, it certainly reduces the value of the magazine.

I intend to send this same comment on to Write On. I hope it is one of millions of similar complaints! :-) Regards, (Will Martin, MO, March 23, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** U S A. U.S. Settles Job Bias Case**

A Record \$508 Million Is Due Women in USIA Dispute

By Bill Miller and David A. Vise
Washington Post Staff Writers
Thursday, March 23, 2000; Page A01

The federal government agreed yesterday to pay \$508 million--the largest award ever in an employment discrimination case--to end a lawsuit filed 23 years ago by hundreds of women who said they were denied jobs and promotions at the U.S. Information Agency and Voice of America.

The agreement ends a tortured legal battle that began after Carolee Brady applied for a job as a USIA magazine editor, only to be told that managers were seeking a man.

Brady's complaint ballooned into a class-action lawsuit, with roughly 1,100 women alleging that they, too, lost opportunities because of their gender. Many said they were bypassed in favor of men with far less experience who scored poorly on hiring tests.

"We never thought this would go on for 23 years," a jubilant Brady said yesterday.

The settlement calls for the women to share in the award equally, with each getting about \$460,000. Plaintiffs' attorneys, who already have received \$12 million in taxpayer money for 65,000 hours of work, said the case could have been resolved years ago at a much lower cost, and taxpayer advocates said they were outraged.

"It is quite unbelievable," said David Sepp, vice president of the Alexandria-based National Taxpayers Union. "Good prosecutors know when to cut their losses and move on to the next case. Apparently when the federal government was on the defensive, they couldn't figure out the same thing. . . . Such a broad-based, expensive settlement in government is almost unheard of."

The award is nearly three times as big as the largest private sector discrimination case ever settled: the \$176 million settlement reached in 1996 by Texaco Inc. to resolve a race discrimination case.

The plaintiffs included women who sought work as international radio broadcasters, radio broadcast and electronic technicians, writer/editors and production specialists between 1974 and 1984. The women said they were relegated to jobs as hostesses instead of commentators on the USIA's broadcasting arm, Voice of America--put on the air to break the monotony of the many male announcers. In the technical field, they said jobs were nearly nonexistent.

One woman, a translator and journalist, contended she was turned down in favor of a man who worked as an encyclopedia salesman. Another, who had a doctorate and radio experience, said she lost out to the son of a Voice of America official.

"It breaks your heart," said Rose Kobylinski, now 79, who once hosted a Voice of America music program targeted at Poland. "The men kept getting upgraded, not me."

The Justice Department had contested the women's claims at nearly every turn. The government initially prevailed in U.S. District Court in 1979, but an appellate court gave the women another chance. That led to a 1984 decision by the trial judge that found the government liable for discrimination, triggering a set of unsuccessful appeals that dragged on until 1997.

In recent years, government lawyers kept up the fight by challenging the women's claims about how much they were owed.

Steven A. Saltzburg, the special master who had been hearing the compensation cases one-by-one, had concluded 48 claims since 1996 and decided that 46 women were owed a total of \$23 million. In light of his awards, the Justice Department reassessed the case, and a year ago began the negotiations that led to yesterday's agreement.

Bruce A. Fredrickson, who has represented the women from the start, praised the Justice Department for showing "enormous courage" in paying the record amount, which includes back pay and millions of dollars in interest.

"There are two lessons here," Fredrickson said. "The cost of discrimination can be enormous, and delay only compounds the cost."

The taxpayers' cost will reach beyond the \$508 million because the federal government has agreed to pay an additional \$23 million to the 46 women whose claims had been adjudicated by the special master. In addition to the \$12 million paid to plaintiffs' lawyers so far, the government must foot the bill for another 25,000 hours of legal work. The final cost of the settlement, Fredrickson said, likely will reach \$550 million.

Some of the women have gone on to other jobs, including Brady, now 52 and a psychotherapist in San Francisco. About a dozen have died; their heirs will collect. The judge who initially heard the case, Charles R. Richey, died in 1997.

At times, Brady said, she thought the case was mired in legal sludge. Different agencies offered varying reasons yesterday for the length of time it took to unfold.

"The length of time the case was pending is a by-product of its size and complexity," said Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller. "Both sides vigorously advocated their respective positions, and the resulting delays in bringing the case to a close were an inherent consequence of that litigation process."

Joe O'Connell, speaking for the Voice of America's Broadcasting Board of Governors, said the decision to settle was made because it had gone on long enough.

"It had become clear that postponing the settlement would just delay the inevitable, and we needed to put this behind us and concentrate on continuing to improve the areas in which the court found fault, and compensate those for whom the court provided remedies," O'Connell said.

The USIA was folded into the State Department last October., State Department officials said yesterday they moved to settle the matter soon after becoming involved.

The money for the settlement will come out of the Treasury Department's "Judgment Fund," which comes from reserves in the government's general fund budget.

U.S. District Judge James Robertson gave preliminary approval to the settlement yesterday, but said he will not sign off on the agreement until the women have a chance to review it and respond at a hearing June 27.

Staff writer Sharon Walsh contributed to this report.

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** YUGOSERBIA. R. Yugoslavia's new sked, note effective date:
Period: 1300 UTC 2 April 2000 to 1330 UTC 29 October 2000
TX site in Bijeljina-Bosnia. All txions with 250 kW of power.

0000-0030	ENGLISH 1 (Exc Sun) 7e,8 N.AM/ce	9580 310
0430-0500	ENGLISH 2 6,7w N.AMERICA/w	9580 325
1830-1900	ENGLISH 3 27,28w EUROPE/w	6100 310
2100-2130	ENGLISH 4 27,28 EUROPE	6100 310
2200-2230	ENGLISH 5 (Exc Sat) 55s,58,59 AUS	7230 100

(ADDX Andreas Volk, Germany, Mar 21 via Wolfgang Bueschel, and via Bob Padula; we excerpted English for DX LISTENING DIGEST. Look for higher NAm frequencies in May)

** ZIMBABWE. ZBC can now be heard with Windows Media Player live streams of Radios 1, 2, and 3 at: <http://www.zbc.co.zw> A live stream of ZBC TV will be "available soon", according to the website. For a programme guide and general information about ZBC, go to their older website at: <http://www.africaonline.co.zw/zbc/> (Dave Kernick, hard-core-dx via DXLD) #####